

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-99. (Cancelled)

100. (Currently Amended) An isolated immunogenic peptide consisting ~~essentially of a portion of SEQ ID NO: 39, wherein said portion comprises (i) at least 9 contiguous amino acids from~~ amino acids 56-70 of SEQ ID NO: 39 or ~~(ii) at least 9 contiguous amino acids from~~ amino acids 448-462 of SEQ ID NO: 39, ~~or a derivative of either of the foregoing, wherein the amino acid sequence of the derivative is at least 85% identical with the immunogenic peptide,~~ wherein the immunogenic peptide is about 9 to about 34 amino acids in length and or derivative thereof is recognized by a CD4⁺ T lymphocyte, which is restricted by a Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC) Class II molecule.

101. (Cancelled)

102. (Currently Amended) The immunogenic peptide of claim 100, wherein the portion comprises ~~peptide consists essentially of~~ amino acids 56-64 and 66-70 of SEQ ID NO: 39 and wherein amino acid 65 of SEQ ID NO: 39 is substituted with a valine.

103. (Currently Amended) The immunogenic peptide of claim 100, wherein the portion comprises ~~peptide consists essentially of~~ amino acids 448-450 and 452-462 of SEQ ID NO: 39 and wherein amino acid 451 of SEQ ID NO: 39 is substituted with a phenylalanine.

104-106. (Cancelled)

107. (Previously Presented) The isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 100, wherein the peptide consists of amino acids 56-70 of SEQ ID NO: 39.

108. (Previously Presented) The isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 100, wherein the peptide consists of amino acids 448-462 of SEQ ID NO: 39.

109. (Previously Presented) The isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 100, wherein the peptide consists of amino acids 57-70 of SEQ ID NO: 39.

110. (Previously Presented) The isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 100, wherein the peptide consists of amino acids 449-462 of SEQ ID NO: 39.

111. (Previously Presented) The isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 100, wherein the peptide consists of amino acids 450-462 of SEQ ID NO: 39.

112. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic peptide of claim 100, wherein the MHC Class II molecule is Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA)-DR.

113. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic peptide of claim 112, wherein the HLA-DR is HLA-DRB1*0401.

114. (Currently Amended) The immunogenic peptide of claim 100 linked to an MHC Class II ~~molecule~~, molecule or a portion thereof.

115. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic peptide of claim 114, wherein the portion of the MHC Class II molecule is the β chain of the MHC Class II molecule.

116. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising an immunogenic peptide of claim 100.

117. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising an immunogenic peptide of claim 114.

118. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes to respond to melanoma, which method comprises:

- (i) contacting antigen presenting cells with a composition of claim 116 *in vitro*, and
- (ii) simultaneously or subsequently exposing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes to the antigen presenting cells *in vitro*,

whereupon the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes are induced to respond to melanoma.

119. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 118, wherein the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes are obtained from a host and the method further comprises:

- (iii) administering the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes to the host.

120. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 119, wherein the host is a mammal.

121. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 120, wherein the mammal is a human.

122. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 119, wherein the antigen presenting cells are obtained from the host.

123. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in a host to respond to melanoma, which method comprises:

- (i) contacting antigen presenting cells with a composition of claim 116 *in vitro*, and
- (ii) subsequently exposing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in the host to the antigen presenting cells by administering the antigen presenting cells to the host, whereupon the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in the host are induced to respond to melanoma.

124. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 123, wherein the host is a mammal.

125. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 124, wherein the mammal is a human.

126. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 123, wherein the antigen presenting cells are obtained from the host.

127. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in a host to respond to melanoma, which method comprises administering the composition of claim 116 to the host, whereupon the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in the host are induced to respond to melanoma.

128. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes to respond to melanoma, which method comprises:

(i) contacting antigen presenting cells with a composition of claim 117 *in vitro*, and
(ii) simultaneously or subsequently exposing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes to the antigen presenting cells *in vitro*,
whereupon the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes are induced to respond to melanoma.

129. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 128, wherein the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes are obtained from a host and the method further comprises:

(iii) administering the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes to the host.

130. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 129, wherein the host is a mammal.

131. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 130, wherein the mammal is a human.

132. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~128~~ 129, wherein the antigen presenting cells are obtained from the host.

133. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in a host to respond to melanoma, which method comprises:

(i) contacting antigen presenting cells with a composition of claim 117 *in vitro*, and
(ii) subsequently exposing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in the host to the antigen presenting cells by administering the antigen presenting cells to the host,
whereupon the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in the host are induced to respond to melanoma.

134. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 133, wherein the host is a mammal.

135. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 134, wherein the mammal is a human.

136. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 133, wherein the antigen presenting cells are obtained from the host.

137. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in a host to respond to melanoma, which method comprises administering the composition of claim 117 to the host, whereupon the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in the host are induced to respond to melanoma.

138.-191. (Not Entered)

192. (New) An isolated immunogenic peptide consisting of a portion of SEQ ID NO: 39, wherein the portion comprises (a) at least 9 amino acids from amino acids 56-70 of SEQ ID NO: 39, wherein the portion comprises an amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of A63V, I58F, I58V, L60F, and L60Q, or (b) at least 9 amino acids from amino acids 448-462 of SEQ ID NO: 39, wherein the portion comprises an amino acid substitution selected from the group consisting of D456V, Y449F, and Y449Q, wherein the peptide is about 9 to about 34 amino acids in length, and wherein the peptide is restricted by a MHC Class II molecule.

193. (New) The isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 192, wherein the MHC Class II molecule is HLA-DR.

194. (New) The isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 193, wherein the HLA-DR is HLA-DRB1*0401.

195. (New) The isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 192 linked to an MHC Class II molecule or a portion thereof.

196. (New) The isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 195, wherein the portion of the MHC Class II molecule is the β chain of the MHC Class II molecule.

197. (New) A composition comprising an isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 192.

198. (New) A composition comprising an isolated immunogenic peptide of claim 195.

199. (New) A method of inducing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes to respond to melanoma, which method comprises:

- (i) contacting antigen presenting cells with a composition of claim 197 *in vitro*, and
- (ii) simultaneously or subsequently exposing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes to the antigen presenting cells *in vitro*,

whereupon the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes are induced to respond to melanoma.

200. (New) The method of claim 199, wherein the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes are obtained from a host and the method further comprises:

- (iii) administering the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes to the host.

201. (New) The method of claim 200, wherein the host is a mammal.

202. (New) The method of claim 201, wherein the mammal is a human.

203. (New) The method of claim 200, wherein the antigen presenting cells are obtained from the host.

204. (New) A method of inducing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in a host to respond to melanoma, which method comprises:

- (i) contacting antigen presenting cells with a composition of claim 197 *in vitro*, and
- (ii) subsequently exposing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in the host to the antigen presenting cells by administering the antigen presenting cells to the host,

whereupon the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in the host are induced to respond to melanoma.

205. (New) The method of claim 204, wherein the host is a mammal.

206. (New) The method of claim 205, wherein the mammal is a human.

207. (New) The method of claim 204, wherein the antigen presenting cells are obtained from the host.

208. (New) A method of inducing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in a host to respond to melanoma, which method comprises administering the composition of claim 197 to the host, whereupon the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in the host are induced to respond to melanoma.

209. (New) A method of inducing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes to respond to melanoma, which method comprises:

- (i) contacting antigen presenting cells with a composition of claim 198 *in vitro*, and
- (ii) simultaneously or subsequently exposing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes to the antigen presenting cells *in vitro*,

whereupon the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes are induced to respond to melanoma.

210. (New) The method of claim 209, wherein the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes are obtained from a host and the method further comprises:

- (iii) administering the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes to the host.

211. (New) The method of claim 210, wherein the host is a mammal.

212. (New) The method of claim 211, wherein the mammal is a human.

213. (New) The method of claim 210, wherein the antigen presenting cells are obtained from the host.

214. (New) A method of inducing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in a host to respond to melanoma, which method comprises:

- (i) contacting antigen presenting cells with a composition of claim 198 *in vitro*, and
- (ii) subsequently exposing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in the host to the antigen presenting cells by administering the antigen presenting cells to the host,

whereupon the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in the host are induced to respond to melanoma.

215. (New) The method of claim 214, wherein the host is a mammal.

216. (New) The method of claim 215, wherein the mammal is a human.

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217. (New) The method of claim 214, wherein the antigen presenting cells are obtained from the host.

218. (New) A method of inducing CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in a host to respond to melanoma, which method comprises administering the composition of claim 198 to the host, whereupon the CD4⁺ T lymphocytes in the host are induced to respond to melanoma.